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# BOGNOR'S HEALTH.

## SATISFACTORY MEDICAL REPORT.

Dr. Conway Cooke, Medical Officer of Health for the Bognor Urban District, presented his annual report to the Urban Council on Friday night. It was as follows:

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOGNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour of presenting to you my 14th Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Bognor for the year ended 31st December, 1904. The area of the district is 865 acres and contains about 1448 inhabited houses. A good many new houses were completed during the year and 55 new building plans were passed. To the North and West of the district many new roads have been recently completed, and the land laid out for building.

The population estimated to the middle of 1904 is 6,851. The gross number of deaths registered during the year was 82, namely, 40 males and 42 females; and were thus distributed over the 12 months:—

	M.	F.		M.	F.
Jan.	4	2	July	0	1
Feb.	3	5	Aug.	1	7
March	3	2	Sept.	4	4
April	4	4	Oct.	5	1
May	3	2	Nov.	6	8
June	2	2	Dec.	5	7

Included in this number is the death of one non-resident, which occurred in a public institution. The estimated death rate is 11.9 per 1000.

The death rates since the increase in the area of the district, which took place 1st October, 1900, are as follows:—

	Total	Rate
1901	65	10.5
1902	69	12.4
1903	76	11.4
1904	82	11.9

The various ages at which death occurred during the year under report were:—

	Under 1 year	1 year and under 5 years	5 " "	15 " "	25 " "	35 " "	45 " "	55 " "	65 " "	75 " "	80 " "	80 " and over
	17	8	2	2	2	30	16	7				

The ages at death of those of 80 and upwards were as follows:—

	1 at 80 years.	1 at 81 years.	2 at 82 years.	2 at 83 years.	2 at 84 years.	2 at 85 years.	2 at 86 years.	2 at 87 years.	2 at 88 years.	2 at 89 years.	2 at 90 years.	2 at 91 years.	2 at 92 years.	2 at 93 years.
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The chief causes of death were:—

Diphtheria	2	Bronchitis	3
Diarrhoea	8	Pneumonia	4
Phthisis	3	Heart diseases	37
Other Tubercular		All other causes	37

It is gratifying to note that no deaths occurred from accident, drowning, or suicide; five having occurred from these causes during the year 1903.

During the year there were as stated above 17 deaths of children under 1 year of age, which gives an infantile mortality rate of 2.4 per 1,000 general population and 12.0 per 1,000 births registered.

Eight of these deaths were due to infantile diarrhoea and six out of the eight occurred during the months of August and September when the disease was very prevalent amongst children. It is interesting to note that the mortality from this cause is always very much higher during a hot and dry season. Thus during 1903, which enjoys the unenviable reputation of being the wettest and one of the coldest years on record, no deaths from this disease occurred in the town.

I would draw attention to the fact that the disease is primarily due to nearly every case to errors in the feeding of infants, such as unsuitable food, sour milk and dirty feeding bottles. And thus by the exercise of greater care on the part of parents and others having charge of infants, the number of deaths from this disease might be greatly lessened.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act I have received 55 Certificates named:—

Diphtheria	17	Scarlet Fever	4
Erysipelas	17	Enteric Fever	7

Of the seven cases of Diphtheria notified, five occurred in the Bognor Branch of the East London Hospital for Children, situated in the Aldwick Road, and were presumably imported cases. One death occurred. One other death from this disease occurred in the district.

Deducting the death occurring in the above mentioned institution, we have a death rate from notifiable diseases of 1.1 per 1,000 general population.

Five of the seven cases of Enteric Fever occurred in one house amongst members of the same family, who were all intected at the same time. The cause was an overflow of sewage into the well, due to damage to the sewer by a heavy traction engine. This was immediately rectified, and the Company's water laid on to the house and the well closed.

There was no spread of the disease and all the cases recovered.

The number of births registered in this district was 137, namely 75 males and 62 females.

This gives a birth rate of 19.9 per 1,000 estimated population.

The figures for the three previous years are as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total	Rate
1901	64	44	108	17.3
1902	81	64	145	22.5
1903	64	54	118	17.7

Systematic inspections of the district have been made from time to time, or as occasion required by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, and regular monthly reports of the work done, have been laid before the Sanitary Committee.

Besides this general supervision I have paid 33 special visits, in cases where I received special notices. Many were due to smells arising from manholes in connection with the draining. By order of the Council this cause of complaint has been remedied by the erection of Ventilating Shafts in suitable positions.

For many years past, complaints have been received from residents and visitors in Feltham and Bognor of the smell arising from the Sewage tank. This I trust will be permanently abated, as the tank has been refaced with cement and the work of covering it is nearly completed.

The work lately imposed on the sanitary authority by the operation of the Factory and Workshop Act, has taken up much valuable time of your Surveyor, who has carried it out most thoroughly and efficiently.

No fewer than 69 Factories and Workshops have been under supervision.

These have been classified under the following headings:—

9 Bakerhouses	1 Stone-mason
7 Dressmakers	2 Coach-builders
6 Tailors	6 Farriers and Harness Makers
6 Laundries	
9 Carpenters	3 Watch Makers
7 Shoemakers	4 Undertakers
3 Plumbers	1 Mineral Water Works
2 Printers	2 Cycle Makers
2 Forge Contractors	2 Brick-makers

These have all been inspected as to their state of cleanliness and the condition of the sanitary arrangements. The cubic area of the various Workshops and rooms has been measured in every case. Notices are now being served with a view to remedying the minor defects and deficiencies.

It is to be hoped that owners and occupiers will regard these notices in their true light, as adding to the healthy condition of the town, and by their hearty co-operation aid the Sanitary Authority in carrying out the work imposed on it by law.

It is very satisfactory that in spite of the minor defects referred to in the last paragraph, no notices have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, as to Sanitary defects found at the time of his visits.

The slaughter houses, cow sheds, milk shops and dairies in the district have likewise been visited. They were found clean and in creditable condition. The house refuse is removed weekly in covered carts. That the work is efficiently carried out, is evident from the very small number of complaints received.

The scavenging and watering of the streets under the control of the Council has been systematically and thoroughly carried out. Wire baskets have been placed in various parts of the town for waste paper, &c.

I regret however, that some of the private roads in the district are in a very unsatisfactory condition and I hope that before long, they will be taken over by the Council and put into a proper state of repair.

The water supply has been ample in quantity and still maintains its high standard of purity as is shown by the report from the Public Analyst.

The Isolation Hospital is still receiving attention and specifications for which will shortly be laid before the Council.

I enclose Tables kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Thompson F.R. Met. Soc. from which I am gratified to learn that Bognor still maintains its reputation of being one of the sunniest towns on the South Coast.

I also beg to enclose Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, specially required by the Local Government Board, and take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Sanitary Committee for the courtesy they have extended to me during the year, and beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. CONWAY COOKE, Bognor, Fell. Roy. Institute of Public Health, Medical Officer of Health, Feb. 1905.

The Chairman (Mr. Travers) complimented Dr. Cooke on his able and exhaustive report which revealed such a satisfactory state of Health for Bognor. Although Dr. Cooke's labours had increased with the growth of the town, he appeared

to discharge the duties even more satisfactorily. (Applause). The Chairman humouredly drew attention to the fact that there was again an excess of male births over that of females. So if anyone wished for heirs to their property they should come to Bognor to live. The death rate was certainly very low and showed that Bognor was one of the healthiest towns in the country, and they could not too much emphasise that fact.

Mr. Long, as Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, endorsed the Chairman's eulogy of Dr. Cooke's services, and congratulated the town on receiving such an excellent report.

Mr. Gibbs was pleased to see the recommendation to take over all the private roads and hoped the Council would take note of it.

## BOGNOR HORSE SHOW SOCIETY.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The third annual meeting of the members of the Bognor Horse Show Society took place on Tuesday evening of last week at York Road Chambers, when Mr. W. H. B. Fletcher, J.P., C.C., presided.

Mr. Griffin (Secretary) presented the audited statement of accounts, which showed the receipts (including a balance brought forward of £2 19s. 9d.) to amount to £148 6s. 6d. The expenditure left a reduced balance in hand of £1 10s. 7d., with outstanding liabilities amounting to £6 9s. 9d., and assets estimated at £10. The prizes amounted to £15 9s. 9d., but Mr. Fletcher as President, had paid £14 11s. 9d. of this. The Secretary's remuneration was ten guineas.

Lord Bridport moved the adoption of the balance sheet, and Mr. Staffurth in seconding said the accounts were very satisfactory, the working expenses having been decreased by over £50.

Upon the motion of Mr. Staffurth, seconded by Mr. Angwin, it was unanimously decided to hold a show on August 17th.

Mr. W. H. B. Fletcher was re-elected President, and Mr. G. P. Holmes Vice-President, and testimony was made to the latter's great kindness in lending his park for the show.

Lord Bridport, Dr. Cooke, Messrs. Long, O. E. Adams, T. Stani, H. L. Staffurth, W. M. Walton, Wilson Tickle, F. W. Harrison, and the Rev. W. D. Yoward, were re-elected the Committee, with the addition of Capt. Tizzard, R.N., and Mr. R. Sadler, in the places of Messrs. F. J. Neale and A. E. Woodbridge, who did not wish to serve again.

Mr. Harry Griffin was re-elected Secretary with an expression of the Society's appreciation of his noble services; Mr. E. L. Best was re-elected Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Nat Tale, Auditor.

The usual votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

## FELL DEAD IN A TRENCH.

### LIABLE TO DIE AT ANY MOMENT.

Mr. A. W. Rawlinson (Deputy Coroner) inquired into the circumstances surrounding the death of James Hampton, a labourer at the Barnham Nurseries, which occurred suddenly while he was at work on Thursday afternoon.

The widow said her husband who was 51 years of age, had been in good health lately, and seemed alright when he went to work on Thursday.

Charles Jenner, of Bognor, who worked with deceased, also said he seemed quite well on Thursday until about four o'clock, when he fell down in a trench which he was digging. Witness and some other men lifted him out, but except for two groans there was no sign of life in him.

Dr. J. B. Collins, of Yapton, who said he saw deceased at 4.30, when he had been dead about twenty minutes. There were no marks of violence. In post mortem examination, he found that a large aneurism of four or five years standing that on the aorta had burst, this he was satisfied caused death. It was quite possible that deceased had seemed in good health, but he had been liable to die at any moment through a little extra exertion.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes."

## VISITORS' LIST.

ROYAL NORFOLK HOTEL.—Canon and Mrs. Harding, Mr. Miller, Mr. Davis. ASCOT VALE.—Miss Phelps. CAMPO.—Mr. Palmer, Mr. Wild. LANEDOWN MANOR.—Mrs. Dunbar, Miss Peggy Dunbar, Mr. Dowall, Mr. Lovelock, Miss Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Eli, Master Kil, Miss Watson, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. Jefferson and family. CLARENCE ROAD. 1, Alexandra Terrace.—Mr. and Miss Archer, Mrs. Druso. ESPLANADE. 2, Cotswold Crescent.—Miss Ahlo (2). 4, Cotswold Crescent.—Mr. and Mrs. Bywater-Smith, Miss Bywater-Smith. SEZINE. BRYNS Cottage.—Mrs. Haly, Mrs. E. Hely, Mr. Wyatt, Miss Davis, Miss Fildow, Mr. and Mrs. Wardell and family. SYDNEY HOUSE, West.—Miss Blanch, Miss Mills. WATERLOO SQUARE. Miss Harbottle and Miss Laws.

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same, if he approved thereof, for a further fee of twenty-five guineas, in both cases out of pocket expenses to be paid by the Council.

The Committee have given instructions for the usual analysis to be made of the Town water.

This report was adopted on the motion of Mr. Long; and the Clerk explained that Mr. Burstall had agreed to come for an inclusive fee of 45 guineas.

## PIER AND BAND COMMITTEE.

The Committee beg to report that they met on the 30th ultimo. (Present: The Chairman of the Council and Messrs. Seynour, Adlington, and Carter).

Pier Pavilion.—The Committee recommend the Council to let the Pier Pavilion to Mr. Athelstane Lee for the season, provided he is willing to take it on the following terms: The rent to be reduced to £40 on condition that there are always three artistes in addition to himself, and that he provide a band of 7 instrumentalists for 6 weeks in July and August, and subject to an Agreement being signed embodying the above, and the usual terms and stipulations in similar contracts and to a satisfactory bond being also provided for the due performance of the Agreement.

Mr. Seymour submitted this report, and said that Mr. Athelstane Lee had agreed to the suggested conditions of contract.

Mr. Adlington seconded.

At the conclusion of the business, the Chairman presented Mr. S. Hodges with a marble clock, suitably inscribed being a mark of esteem on the occasion of Mr. Hodges' marriage, subscribed for by the Council and officials, testifying to the appreciation of his services as Collector, with the wish that he had many years of happiness in front of him.

Mr. Hodges warmly thanked the Council and his brother officers, and hoped that the pleasant relations between him and the Council might continue for many years.

## BOGNOR BAPTISTS' SOCIAL GATHERING.

A good representative gathering of the Bognor "Emmanuel" church members and congregation met to celebrate the annual New Year's social meeting.

As usual, several ladies came forward with trays and half trays, thereby ensuring a financial success and abundant provisions and fruit for the tea and evening refresh-